An environmental survey laboratory located outside the exclusion zone collects samples of food, water and other relevant samples to estimate the dose, if any, to members of the public.

The safety features of the reactor and the operation as per the technical specifications ensures that nuclear accidents are entirely unlikely. An emergency plan is also in place to mitigate the consequences of any accident, in the event that it should occur.

Stay of Karmapa in India

2335. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow Karmapa Dorji, who escaped from Tibet, to stay in India;

(b) whether the Dalai Lama has pleaded on the above lines and several other representations have also been received in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji, recognised by his supporters as the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa, arrived in Dharamsala from Tibet on January 5,2000. His Holiness the Dalai Lama has publicly stated that Lama Ugyen Thinley Dorji would like to stay in India and study. Representations have been received from his supporters regarding his continued stay in India. Representations have also been received against his continued stay in India. The matter requires careful study taking into account all relevant factors.

France's support to get permanent membership in Security Council

†2336. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether France has made an offer to support the claim and efforts of India to get the permanent membership of Security Council;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) France has supported India's candidature for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. In its most recent public statements, it has been stated that India has a rightful place in any expanded Security Council. India has welcomed France's support to its candidature and looks forward to working with it towards the achievement of this objective.

Representations of Cultural groups of Assam under programmes of ICCR

2337. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cultural groups of Assam have been given adequate representations in various overseas programmes of Indian Council for Cultural Relations;

(b) the number of groups from Assam that were sent abroad under such programmes during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(c) whether any cultural groups from Assam and the North-East have been selected for performance abroad as part of Indian Republic's Golden Jubilee Celebrations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) List of groups from Assam sponsored / deputed by the ICCR is enclosed as statement (*See* below).

(c) Details of cultural troupes (including those from Assam and the North East) being selected for performances abroad as part of Indian Republic Golden Jubilee Celebrations in the financial year 2000- 2001 are yet to be decided by the Council.